

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 893

By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study competitive pay of state schools of nursing faculty and to compare the data in Tennessee with data in other states.

WHEREAS, the shortage of faculty in schools of nursing with baccalaureate and graduate programs is a continuing and expanding problem; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, the deficit of faculty has reached critical proportions as the current faculty workforce rapidly advances toward retirement and the pool of younger replacement faculty decreases; and

WHEREAS, the nursing shortage in Tennessee is reaching critical levels, with Tennessee having the highest vacancy rate of all states in the southeast region; and

WHEREAS, nursing schools in Tennessee turned away 2,500 qualified applicants in 2007, due to an insufficient number of faculty to teach those prospective nursing students; and

WHEREAS, the current salary for nursing faculty in Tennessee is below the salaries of nursing faculty in the states bordering Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an anticipated 53% of faculty cite poor compensation as the reason for leaving their positions; and

WHEREAS, nurse faculty compensation is significantly lower than compensation for their colleagues in other academic disciplines and among nurses with similar credentials in clinical practice and other non-academic settings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the issue of

competitive pay of state schools of nursing faculty and to compare the data in Tennessee with data in other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, at the request of the committee, the various agencies and entities of state government shall assist the committee in the performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly no later than February 1, 2009, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.